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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/976,729 | DOHMEN ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Joseph D. Torres | 2133 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/26/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14, 19 and 25.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04/19/2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

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|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kevin M. Mason on 2/17/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 15-18 and 20-24 are canceled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

On page 5 of the Applicants Appeal Brief, the Applicant contends, "However, there is no indication in Chen that Chen's elements can be grouped as suggested by the Examiner. Furthermore, Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner's argument goes against the teaching of Chen. The Examiner asserts that groups of elements, such as groups of certain cells 610-615, 620-625, and 630-635 of the E array and certain cells 640-645 of the error evaluator array Ω_{Λ} , are equivalent to 'a plurality of N-parallel error correction and determination devices,' as recited in limitation (2) of independent claim 1. However, limitation (2) also generally recites that **each N-parallel error correction and determination device is adapted to use the at least one error**

polynomial produced by the one key equation determination device to correct errors in the parallel data stream" [Emphasis added].

The Applicant contends, "Appellants respectfully submit that White does not teach or imply limitations (A) or (B) as recited in independent claim 19."

The Examiner now agrees with the Applicant that Chen does not teach **a plurality of N-parallel error correction and determination devices**, each N-parallel error correction and determination device is adapted to use the at least one error polynomial produced by the one key equation determination device to correct errors in the parallel data stream (see Applicants specification for details of an **N-parallel** error correction and determination device and in particular **a plurality of N-parallel error correction and determination devices**) nor does it teach performing **a plurality of N-parallel syndrome generations** using the parallel data stream, each of the N-parallel syndrome generations determined after a predetermined number of cycles a plurality of syndromes; performing, in parallel and by using each of the plurality of syndromes generated by each of the plurality of N-parallel syndrome generations, a plurality of N-parallel decodings of the parallel data stream to determine, in parallel, a plurality of error value and error locator polynomials; correcting errors, by using a plurality of N-parallel correction and determination processes that use the error value and error locator polynomials, in the parallel data stream (see Applicants specification for details of an **N-parallel** syndrome generation and in particular **a plurality of N-parallel** syndrome generations).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph D. Torres whose telephone number is (571) 272-3829. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on (571) 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joseph D. Torres, PhD
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2133

